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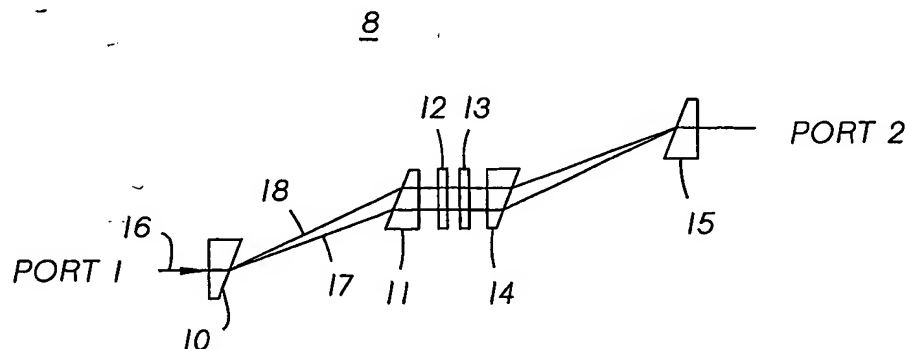
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(54) Title: OPTICAL ISOLATOR, ATTENUATOR, CIRCULATOR AND SWITCH



(57) Abstract: A polarization independent optical isolator, attenuator, circulator and switch include at least a combination of birefringent prisms with parallel optic axes for dividing an input beam into parallel polarized beams or for combining parallel polarized beams into an output beam. In particular, an optical isolator (8) includes a first combination of birefringent prisms (10, 11), Faraday rotator (12), half waveplate (13) and a second combination of birefringent prisms (14, 15). Devices may be conservative in the use of birefringent material, high in isolation and free from polarization mode dispersion.